

Hemp, Robert LT

Sent:  
Subject:

Monday, July 16, 2001 6:31 PM  
P 162218Z JUL 01,SITREP-POL THREE/ACTUAL MAJOR, METHYL MERCAPTAN AND  
CHLORINE,COGARD MSO DETROIT MI

P 162218Z JUL 01  
FM COGARD MSO DETROIT MI  
TO CCGDNINE CLEVELAND OH//CC/M//  
INFO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//G-MOR/G-OPF//  
COMLANTAREA COGARD PORTSMOUTH VA//AM/ACC//  
COGARD NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER WASHINGTON DC  
COGARD NSFCC ELIZABETH CITY NC  
COGARD AST FORT DIX NJ  
COMCOGARDGRU DETROIT MI  
COGARD AIRSTA DETROIT MI  
COMCOGARD NPFC WASHINGTON DC  
COGARD FINCEN CHESAPEAKE VA//ORGQ//  
COMCOGARD MLC LANT NORFOLK VA//FCP-2//  
HQ EPA WASHINGTON DC  
US EPA REGION V CHICAGO  
COGARD STA BELLE ISLE MI  
COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//G-MOR/G-OPF//  
COMLANTAREA COGARD PORTSMOUTH VA//AM/ACC//  
COGARD NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER WASHINGTON DC  
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COMCOGARD NPFC WASHINGTON DC  
COGARD FINCEN CHESAPEAKE VA//ORGQ//  
COMCOGARD MLC LANT NORFOLK VA//FCP-2//  
HQ EPA WASHINGTON DC  
US EPA REGION V CHICAGO  
COGARD STA BELLE ISLE MI  
BT  
UNCLAS //N16465//  
OPER/ATOFINA CHEMICAL PLANT HAZMAT RELEASE//  
MSGID/SITREP-POL/COGARD MSO DETROIT MI/-//  
SUBJ/SITREP-POL THREE/ACTUAL MAJOR, METHYL MERCAPTAN AND CHLORINE  
RELEASE, RAIL CAR FIRE, ADJACENT TO TRENTON CHANNEL, RIVERVIEW, MI, MC  
01008815, CPN C01124//  
REF/A/MSG/MY/152241Z JUL 01//  
REF/B/MSG/MY/142140Z JUL 01//  
NARR/REF A IS SITREP-POL TWO. REF B IS SITREP-POL ONE.//  
RMKS/1. SITUATION.

A. OVERVIEW: SITUATION AS BEFORE, RAIL CAR TANK FIRE  
EXTINGUISHED, WITH RP AND RESPONSE CONTRACTOR ASSESSING OPTIONS ON HOW  
TO REMOVE REMAINING PRODUCT FROM 2 TANK CARS AT SITE. A TOTAL OF 5  
LOADED RAIL CARS WERE WITHIN SITE LOCATION, 3 LOADED WITH CHLORINE AND  
2 WITH METHYL MERCAPTAN. OF THESE TWO, ONE WAS INVOLVED AND HEAVILY  
DAMAGED IN FIRE; ONLY TRACE AMOUNTS OF CHEMICAL, IF ANY, REMAIN IN IT.  
3 OF 5 CARS NOT DAMAGED AT ALL. IN ADDITION TO DAMAGED RAIL CAR NOTED  
ABOVE, 1 CHLORINE CAR SUSTAINED SOME HEAT DAMAGE. EXTENT OF DAMAGE  
REPORTED ERRONEOUSLY IN REF A. DAMAGE IS SURFACE BURN TO SKIN OF RAIL  
CAR AND TO TWO HOSES WHERE CHLORINE LEAK OCCURRED. CAR IS ACTUALLY  
LESS DAMAGED THAN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. LEAKS WERE PATCHED AND  
STABILIZED. THAT CAR STILL REMAINS GREATEST SOURCE OF CONCERN FOR  
RESPONSE TEAMS, BUT POSES NO IMMINENT THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY AT THIS  
TIME.

B. O/S WX: WINDS CALM, 80 DEGREES F, PARTLY CLOUDY.

C. FACILITY DATA: ATOFINA CHEMICAL PLANT, 17168 WEST JEFFERSON,  
RIVERVIEW, MI 48219.

D. SAR STATUS: NO ONGOING COAST GUARD SAR ACTIVITY.

E. COAST GUARD RESOURCES SUMMARY: MSO DETROIT CO AND 9 ATLANTIC

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



406662

STRIKE TEAM (AST) REPS WERE ON SCENE BUT RELEASED BY FOSC THIS DATE AT 1200.

F. RESOURCES AT RISK: NO ENVIRONMENTAL OR HISTORIC RESOURCES ARE KNOWN TO BE AT RISK.

G. ECONOMIC IMPACT: ATOFINA PLANT IS TEMPORARILY SHUT DOWN FOR BUSINESS. LOCAL CITIZENS FROM GROSSE ILE MAY BE ENTERING LAW SUIT AGAINST COMPANY.

H. KEY STAKEHOLDER ISSUES: ENSURING THE SAFETY OF WORKERS IS TOP PRIORITY. ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGED RAIL CARS AND LOADING RACK PENDS COMPLETION OF NTSB RAIL INVESTIGATION. AIR MONITORING CONTINUES. EPA WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE TILL COMPANY CAN ASSEMBLE THIRD PARTY CONTRACTOR. EPA TO CONDUCT 6 HOUSE SCREENINGS THIS EVENING ON BEHALF OF COMPANY. RECEIVED LETTER FROM WINDSOR PORT AUTHORITY WITH COMPLAINT THAT MARINE UNIT RESOURCES AND WINDSOR FIRE DEPARTMENT NOT NOTIFIED OF INCIDENT IN A TIMELY FASHION AND POSSIBLE ACUTE EXPOSURE OF WINDSOR MARINE UNIT. FOSC TO RESPOND BY LETTER 17 JUL 01.

I. HEALTH AND HUMAN SAFETY FACTORS: NO RELEASE OF HAZMAT IS TAKING PLACE. RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ENTERING HOT ZONE ARE MITIGATED BY USE OF LEVEL D PPE.

J. MEDIA INTEREST: HIGH LOCAL INTEREST.

K. CASUALTY INFORMATION: AS DESCRIBED IN REFS A AND B.

L. INCIDENT/UNIFIED COMMAND STATUS: COMMAND POST AT ATOFINA CHEMICAL PLANT STAFFED BY RIVERVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT, MSO DETROIT, EPA, WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT., AND CONTRACTED RESPONSE PERSONNEL.

## 2. ACTIONS TAKEN:

A. 151845Q JUL 01: FOSC DEPARTED INCIDENT COMMAND POST.

B. 160556Q JUL 01: AST O/S, PREPARING FOR HOT ZONE ENTRY.

C. 0700: FOSC O/S COMMAND POST.

D. 0757: AST ENTERED HOT ZONE IN LEVEL B WITH SRS CONTRACTORS TO CHARACTERIZE ATMOSPHERE TO DETERMINE PPE REQUIRED FOR NTSB.

E. FOSC BRIEFED D9 M.

E. 0825: AST COMPLETED ENTRY. LEVEL D PPE APPROVED FOR NTSB INVESTIGATORS.

F. 0830: MSO XO BRIEFED D9 CC.

G. 1030: NTSB ENTERED HOT ZONE IN LEVEL D PPE FOR INVESTIGATION.

H. 1110: FOSC RELEASED AST; 12 AST MEMBERS INCLUDING XO DEPARTED SITE.

I. 1115: FOSC ISSUED LETTER TO COMPANY DIRECTING THEM TO (1) CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH FD AND OTHER OFFICIALS TO ENSURE SAFETY OF NEARBY HUMAN POPULATIONS; (2) CONDUCT REGULAR MONITORING AND DAILY AIR MONITORING IVO AFFECTED RAIL CARS AND AROUND PERIMETER OF PROPERTY, SUBMIT AIR MONITORING PLAN FROM A QUALIFIED THIRD PARTY CONSULTANT; (3) DEVELOP, FOR FOSC REVIEW AND APPROVAL, WRITTEN PLANS FOR ACTION THE COMPANY MAY WISH TO TAKE REGARDING THE START-UP OF PLANT OPERATIONS IN AFFECTED AREA OR REPAIRS TO AFFECTED RAIL CARS; AND (4) CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, EXPOSED PERSONS, AND WAYNE CO. HEALTH DEPT. TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY TO REPORTS BY INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE TOXIC RELEASE.

J. 1210: FOSC BRIEFED CONGRESSMAN DINGELL'S OFFICE. ALERTED TO SITUATION AND UPCOMING PRESS CONFERENCE.

K. 1215: FOSC BRIEFED MICHIGAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE MANS' OFFICE. ALERTED TO SITUATION AND UPCOMING PRESS CONFERENCE.

L. 1400: PRESS CONFERENCE HELD WITH SPEAKING ROLES FOR CONGRESSMAN DINGELL, FOSC, EPA, WAYNE CO. PUBLIC HEALTH, AND ATOFINA. CONGRESSMAN DINGELL ENDORSED CG AND EPA AND HOW RESPONDERS PROTECTED PUBLIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT; MUCH PRAISE ALSO FOR MAYORS OF AFFECTED DOWNRIVER COMMUNITIES.

M. 1430: UPON REQUEST OF US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND MICHIGAN DNR, MSO ARRANGED FOR US EPA TO TAKE SURFACE WATER SAMPLES AT (1) WATER OUTFALL AT INCIDENT SITE, (2) ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE HUMBUG MARSH (10 NAUTICAL MILES AWAY), AND (3) HALFWAY BETWEEN.

N. 1540: FOSC BRIEFED D9 M AND DEPARTED COMMAND POST.

## 3. ADDITIONAL INFO:

A. CPN INFO: CPN C01124.

B. CPN CEILING \$10,000. EXPENDED: CG COSTS \$7244.65, CONTRACTOR COSTS BORNE BY PRP.

## 4. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: